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September 27, 2004

European Patent Application 04 005 620.2
Hitachi Metals, Ltd.
Your Ref. NT1496EP - Our File EPA-41284

Dear Sirs,

We enclose a copy of document EP 1 460 715 A1 by which the original papers of this application were published on September 22, 2004, along with the search report.

If the application is to be further pursued, the examination fee must be paid by March 22, 2005, which involves total costs of EUR 1,630. We shall pay the fee unless otherwise instructed by

February 22, 2005.

At the same time, the designation fees (total cost per country EUR 155) will fall due, which we have not paid as yet. Please inform us which of the following countries should be designated:

Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy,
Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden,
Switzerland & Liechtenstein, Austria, Spain,
Portugal, Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Monaco,
Slovenia, Finland, Romania, Cyprus, Turkey,
Slovakia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia,
Hungary, Poland.

Note that payment of seven designation fees covers all member countries of the EPC.

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We wish to draw your attention to the possibility of recording the application in Hong Kong, thereby reserving the right to have the eventual patent extended to Hong Kong. The recordal would have to be done by March 22, 2005, and involve total costs of approximately EUR 1,300.

If this is of interest to you, please let us have your instruction no later than March 6, 2005.

Yours faithfully,



Secretary
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Enclosure